



SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

MAY - JUNE 1984

HAZARDOUS WASTE AND HUMAN VALUES

Better living through chemistry? Not without qualification. We are being swamped with the estimated five million chemicals now in use, and relatively little is known about their hazards. There has been considerable progress in the last decade in the control of toxic wastes, but the health of our environment is still going from bad to worse. Our situation reminds me of the saying, "When you are up to your waist in alligators, it's hard to remember you came here to drain the swamp."

Sit back, then close your eyes, take a deep breath, and imagine your favorite landscape or streamside resting place. We need this to get perspective, to be quiet in order to face reality, and to remember why we came here.

An alcoholic is a person who goes for a long time denying reality and blaming everybody and everything for the catastrophes in his or her life. Finally he or she recognizes where the problem really lies, namely within — and at last goes for help. Today we need to recognize that individually and together we are techniholics, and we have a serious consumptive problem. Here we are, reeling with hazardous waste, and pointing the finger at industry and the bad actors all around. The real problem is within us, and it is causing much pain and expense.

Why are we living this way? Do we really choose to behave like an irresponsible child with a new chemistry set in the basement, making unknown and poisonous compounds? Is the problem one of overregulation or underregulation? What advantages are so great that they outweigh the heavy cost of a poisoned existence? Can we plan better, do without, substitute, and somehow stem the tide of new substances with unknown effects?

This is not a technical problem, but one of attitudes, values, and short-sighted, appetite-of-the-moment choices. It is a societal syndrome, and you can no longer point to this individual, company or segment of society. It is a matter of choosing the way we live, of respect or abuse of each other. We are subordinating the lives of others to our own, and our own to things. Choosing a poisoned environment, a degraded human existence, is a bad choice, and we need to admit it and go for help.

Waste has become a major characteristic of social life. If, as Holmes said, taxes are what you pay for a civilized society, it seems true that waste is what you pay for a technological society. Technology was supposed to improve human existence, and of course it has in untold ways, but it has acquired reckless momentum. The automobile removed horse manure from the brick streets

of St. Louis, but now it is eroding our lungs, and the earth is paved over to drive and park our millions of cars. Unlimited electric power results in the death of forests and Lakes in the north or an upwind, upstream nuclear plant. The splitting of the atom is at once the greatest technical achievement and the greatest failure of our time. We are acting as if we have an unlimited credit card to spend our inheritance -- buy now, pay later. The environment is a relentless creditor.

Sitting by the streamside, let's think of better choices and adopt principles of action. First, there is no thing on earth to be compared with the value of a human person and, so, of true human welfare. No cleanup cost or corporate risk is to be pitted against risk to human life. Second, human good is tightly bound to the good of animals, plants and their support system. As we are all one human family, we are also one with creation, our extended family. We are all in this together. So we need to adopt Earthmanship policies, meaning long-term occupation without great change, a care-taking occupation. Leave a light footprint. Third, we can't throw all this stuff away; it has to go somewhere. Fourth, we must continually internalize the external or social costs of all this consumption. Those who make and use a substance must pay for its effects and waste. In general, we must respect nature, mimic nature, go with nature — where there is no waste.

Finally, we should be cheerful and optimistic. Of course, we can't handle this alone — no techniholic should try. Social problems require social solutions, and we indeed are all in this together. There is tremendous energy and good will in our human family, both organized and unorganized. We are holding hands across the country and around the globe. Not least, God's own energy of love is ours, to choose a better life.

James Mulligan, S.J.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The Saint Louis Audubon Society held its eleventh annual dinner meeting Tuesday, May 15.

President Gary Giessow presided, and the invocation was given by Father James Mulligan. The following were elected to the board of directors: Bruce Bryan, 102 Plant, Webster Groves; James R. Ernst, 2230 Ferncliff, Kirkwood; Arthur F. Kerckhoff, Jr., 20 Picardy Lane, Ladue; and Marilyn Stobbs, 2337 Maybrook, Kirkwood.

Following the business meeting, Charles Hoessle, director of the St. Louis Zoo, gave a most informative program on "Endangered Animals" and the part played by the St. Louis Zoo in cooperation with other zoological institutions in the survival of the endangered species. He also gave the guests a preview of plans for new additions and answered many questions.

No matter what ratings are given by various books, papers, etc., the St. Louis Zoo will always be Number One to the residents of the area and to the many thousands of visitors. Our congratulations go to the people of St. Louis for their support, the fine board of governors of the zoo, and our own Charlie Hoessle.

EAGLES NESTING

Monopoly Lake in the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Missouri was closed to boating last month when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorities discovered that a pair of bald eagles was nesting in a cypress tree in the marsh.

Bald eagles, an endangered species that hasn't nested successfully in Missouri since 1928, are extremely susceptible to disturbance while nesting. Closing the lake was an effort to give the pair as much peace as possible.

Last year, a nesting attempt by a pair of eagles in the same tree ended when the tree was struck by lightning. The female was killed. Biologists speculate that the male might have recruited another female and brought her to the tree.

EAGLE SCOUTS

Many birders might feel they have been "Eagle scouts" all their lives, seeking various species throughout the world.

However, the Eagle Scouts we will be discussing in this article are young men who have achieved, through their own efforts, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

To become an Eagle Scout, a young man must have earned a total of 21 merit badges, of which 11 are required. Required merit badges are first aid, citizenship in the community, nation and world, as well as communications, safety, emergency preparedness or lifesaving, environmental science, personal fitness, and camping.

In addition to these requirements, a Boy Scout must complete a service project in which he assumes the primary leadership role. The Boy Scout must plan the details, organize the work and manpower, and direct the successful carrying out of the project. The project is reviewed, both for approval and completion, by a team of adults outside the Boy Scouts "home troop."

In recent months two members of Boy Scout Troop 267, sponsored by Beasley School P.T.A., have completed Eagle Scout service projects at the Education Center.

Eagle Scout candidate Kenneth Warren directed removal of an old wooden grain storage building, and Brian Wetzker removed, duplicated and replaced the front steps to the Education Center house.

Many hours of work have gone into these two projects. Other Eagle candidates are planning projects at the Education Center this spring as the weather improves.

On your next visit to the Education Center, watch the area carefully. You may be able to add another name to your life list: an "American Eagle" -- Scout!

HUMMINGBIRD PROBLEMS EXPECTED

One of Missouri's most welcome tourists continues to face a lethal reception. Ruby-throated hummingbirds were found dead last fall as a result of electrocution. The birds, probably driven to seek food because of drought conditions, were probing in holes on red-colored electric fence insulators, brand-named "Red Snap'r," which are manufactured by North Central Plastics of Ellendale, Minnesota.

The red insulator, mounted on round metal posts or rods, and "weed burner" high voltage fences are a fatal attraction. The birds perch on the electric fence wire, and their long beaks make contact with the round metal fence post, creating a fatal ground.

The company is now offering a black, as well as a red, insulator in this model. Black insulators would not attract the tiny hummers. The offending model is RP 25-N.

"They've had many letters," says Jim D. Wilson, ornithologist for the Conservation Department. "So have we, as a matter of fact. One woman sent in a petition with 193 signatures."

Wilson said the problem could be alleviated if fence builders would not use the red insulators or would spray paint them with a dull color, including the ones already in place. He says that red and orange probably are the most dangerous colors since they mimic flower colors that attract hummingbirds.

Different models from the same company, while attached to wooden or regular steel posts, are more than four inches long and don't offer the opportunity for a grounding contact.

The ruby-throat, Missouri's only hummingbird, has been in a population decline for unknown reasons, and the fence situation is an added threat.

SEVENTH BIENNIAL WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

October 5-8, 1984

The seventh biennial West Central Regional Conference will be held on the weekend of October 5-8 in Kansas City. Special focus of the conference will be chapter education programs and nongame wildlife programs, nature centers and successful campaigns like the Missouri Department of Conservation's "Design for Conservation."

Field trips in the Kansas City area will be held during the weekend. Meetings will be held Friday night, October 5, and continue on Saturday and Sunday at the Doubletree Hotel, 10100 College, Overland Park, Kansas. Special rates for the conference are \$4 per night plus tax. Keynote speakers will address the group at lunch and dinner on Saturday.

If you are interested in attending, please use the enclosed preregistration form included in this Bulletin.

7th BIENNIAL WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Pre-Registration Form

I/we are interested in the upcoming regional conference to be held October 5-8, 1984, in Kansas City and would like to have information sent as it becomes available.

I/we are particularly interested in the following events:

All Day Field Trips

Please indicate preference for Friday (F) or Monday (M).

Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge Shell-Osage wildlife area
 Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge Taberville Prairie

Half Day Field Trips

Friday or Monday

Local Nature Centers/Natural Areas

Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Center
 Lakeside/Swope Park Zoo Lake Jacomo & Burroughs A.S. Library
 The Prairie Center Cave Springs Nature Center
 Little Bean Marsh Burr Oak Woods Nature Center

Please indicate number of children interested in:

Youth Program (6-14 yrs) Child Care (up to 5 years)

Name

Chapter

Street Address

City & State

Zip

Please address to:

Conference Registration
National Audubon Society
210 Southwind Place
Manhattan, Ks. 66502

FROM SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY



Aids to better photography

CAMERA HANDLING AND FILM

Lee F. Mason

The first rule in handling a camera: KEEP THE CAMERA STRAP AROUND YOUR NECK AT ALL TIMES. Dropping a camera can be fatal! The average camera has hundreds and hundreds of tiny parts working in precise coordination. It doesn't take much of a bump to disrupt that precision.

If your pictures often are not sharp, check yourself against the following:

1. The shutter release must be "s-q-u-e-e-z-e-d" gently, or use a cable release.
2. The photographer should hold a breath at the instant of exposure.
3. The camera should be held firmly — but not desperately.
4. For exposures longer than 1/30 second, the camera should be anchored to a tripod or otherwise supported on a stationary base.
5. Whenever possible, it is wise to shoot at 1/125 second, or faster, to help negate even the slightest camera movement or to arrest action.

If your camera has interchangeable lenses, make the changes carefully. When attaching a screw-mount lens, be sure it is properly seated so you do not strip the threads. On bayonet-mount lenses usually there is a red dot that must be placed opposite a corresponding red dot on the camera body. Gently twist in the lens until you hear it click in place.

Never clean your lenses with eyeglass cleaning tissues. They contain chemicals that can harm your lenses. If you want to use tissues, get those specifically made for cleaning lenses, available at the camera shops.

With the excellence of today's color films, relatively few people work with black-and-white films. The new, high-resolution, fine-grain color emulsions rival black-and-white film standards for materials of the same speed. Films with the suffix "color" indicate a negative film — one from which you have color prints made. Films with the suffix "chrome" indicate positive film — producing color slides (transparencies) for projection. There are at least nine producers of color-negative and color-slide films offering several dozen different films. It is wise to choose one film to work with as exclusively as possible. By doing so, you not only learn to get the most out of a particular film, but you are saved the numerous mistakes possible when using a variety of films.

If you buy film on sale or in quantity, be careful about its storage. Keep the film refrigerated if you expect some time to elapse before you use it. When removing film from the refrigerator, allow an hour or so for warm-up before threading it into your camera. Keeping film in the refrigerator will extend its expiration date by several months.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Dates and Time: Saturday, May 26, 1984 (rain date Sunday, May 27)
Saturday, June 9, 1984 (rain date Sunday, June 10)
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Saint Louis Audubon Education Center
Crescent, Missouri. West on I-44, exit Lewis Road.
Keep to the right on Lewis Road for one mile to the
Center entrance on your left.

Fee: \$25 per person. Limited enrollment.

Learn to really see and enjoy the wonders and beauty of nature and put them on film. This workshop is designed for both beginning and experienced photographers who use a 35mm single lens reflex camera. Close-up will be emphasized.

Covered: Exposure, focus, composition, lighting, use of flash, filters, film, lenses, accessories, helpful gadgets you can make, tips on care of equipment, troubleshooting, clothing for outdoor photography, and a bagful of useful hints to simplify and better your photography. Extensive printed notes covering the instruction will be supplied each participant.

Bring camera, film, flash, lenses, tripod, cable release, notebook, pencil, and plastic trash bag. Bring lunch. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes for the outdoors.

Instructors: Lee F. Mason and Edward M. Mason are free-lance photographer-writers who have had over 200 articles, with their photographs, published here and abroad. They regularly conduct photography workshops for Missouri University, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis Zoo, and various adult education programs.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me for the Nature Photography Workshop at the Saint Louis Audubon Education Center, 104 Lewis Road, Crescent, Missouri, Saturday, May 26, and Saturday, June 9. In case of rain either day I understand the workshop will be held the next day.

FEE: \$25.00 NAME: _____

Make check payable to: ADDRESS: _____

St. Louis Audubon Society

PHONE: _____

and mail to:

St. Louis Audubon Society

2109 Briargate Lane

St. Louis, Missouri 63122

You need not be an Audubon member to participate.

WANT TO POLISH YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC SKILLS? Come join the activities of the Photography Section of the Saint Louis Audubon Society. Indoor meetings are the first Tuesday of the month from October through June (no meeting in January), at 7:45 p.m., in the auditorium of the Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Association, Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves, Missouri. EVERYONE IS WELCOME ALWAYS!



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CABIN FOR RENT

LOCATION: The cabin lies in a quiet aspen grove, just 75 miles west of Denver, in Summit County, eight miles north of Interstate 70 and the town of Dillon. It is in the heart of the Gore Range, one of the most beautiful in the state. Fifteen feet from the porch is the boundary of Eagles Nest Wilderness Area, nearly 135,000 acres in extent. There are no neighbors and no highway sounds at the cabin. The nearby terrain is gentle, with aspen groves and beaver ponds. The view from the cabin is beautiful — across a meadow and out over the Blue River Valley to the mountains beyond. The elevation is 9,400 feet.

DESCRIPTION: The cabin has two stories and sleeps six comfortably. Upstairs are two bedrooms (one with outside balcony). Downstairs is a third bedroom, full bath, and kitchen/dining/living area. Outside is a covered porch and deck. The kitchen is fully stocked with cooking and eating utensils. There are some provisions for babies. There is no phone. Space heaters, cookstove, refrigerator, and hot water heater are powered by propane. So are the wall-mounted lights. There are also games, magazines, books, and detailed descriptions of hikes, local history, and other attractions. These include rockhounding at an abandoned mine over the hill, hunting fossils down near the highway, bird watching (the immediate area is excellent habitat, and the Alfred M. Bailey Bird Nesting Area is just over the hill), mushrooming (we put up over 20 quarts of chanterelles in 1983), and, of course, deck sitting (watching the multitude of hummingbirds). Down in town, four ski areas offer other diversions such as shopping, rafting, Alpine slides, and crowds.

PRICES: \$60 per night; \$320 per week.

THE MANAGEMENT: We are biologists at the University of Colorado (medical school). For over ten years we have enjoyed escaping with our children to a cabin close to this one. The rustic, close-to-nature surroundings are not for everyone, but we have found that many people prefer this to the upbeat condo scene.

If interested, write the Saint Louis Audubon Society, 2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63122.

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY EDUCATION CENTER - JUNE PROGRAMS, 1984

Programs will be held at the Education Center, 104 Lewis Road, Crescent, Missouri (off I-44 just west of Tyson Park).

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Insect identification with Marshall Magner, Audubon Society board member, and Barbara Lawton, convenor, for a discussion of insect life, followed by a field walk and field identification. Bring sack lunch.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, Second Session, Nature Photography Workshop.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or ????

Bird Walk. Anyone interested meet at the Audubon Education Center at 9:00 a.m. The day will start there and go to where the birds are.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Backyard Habitat with Dave Tylka from the Department of Conservation. Meet with Dave Tylka and Bill Salsgiver, convenor, for a discussion on how to adapt one's yard to be more attractive to wildlife. Field walk with identification and suggestions will follow discussions.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30. from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Tree Pruning and Forest Management with Steve Spezia, from the Department of Conservation. Meet with Steve Spezia and Bill Salsgiver, convenor, for a discussion of how to properly prune trees and manage forested land for wildlife. A walk will follow the discussion. Suggestions will be offered by Steve for the management of our land.

RESERVATION BLANK

Make check payable to St. Louis Audubon Society. Mail or bring with you. Mailing address: Saint Louis Audubon Society, 2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis, MO 63122.

Name _____

Street _____ City and Zip _____

Number of people _____

Members

Nonmembers

June 2 Insect Identification	\$2 _____	\$3 _____
June 9, Photography Workshop	\$25	
June 16, Bird Walk	\$2 _____	\$3 _____
June 23, Backyard Habitat	\$2 _____	\$3 _____
June 30, Pruning & Forest Management	\$2 _____	\$3 _____



If you were rained out of April or May classes, please accept a rain check to any of the above classes (not photography workshop).